

Appleby Archaeology

Notes of the Committee Meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group held on Thursday February 27th 2014 at Northgate Milburn.

Present

Phyl Rouston	Chair
Carol Dougherty	Membership
Martin Railton	Research
Mike Godfrey	Treasurer
Martin Joyce	Newsletter
Stephen Walker	
Richard Stevens	Secretary

Apologies

Heather Edwards

Notes of the last meeting

The notes were agreed to be a correct record.

1/2/2014 Matters arising

1/3/13 Talks to Schools. The current situation was summarised thus: Trish had informed Richard that she was waiting for Appleby Grammar School to get in touch with her regarding assembly dates. Regarding Kirkby Stephen Grammar, she said that she was waiting for them to contact her. However, an email exchange of 18th January between Phyl and Rachel Steele, explaining the delay in contact (which had been copied to Trish) just said that Rachel would expect Trish to contact her when it was convenient, ie. Whenever Trish was available. The consensus was that Trish might have too much to cope with at the present time and that Richard should call her suggesting that all the school appointments could be rescheduled to later in the academic year when her situation with her father might have eased. **(Richard)**

2/2/14 Membership

Carol advised that there were currently 62 members who had renewed, 34 single and 14 joint.

3/2/14 Treasurer's Report

Mike presented the accounts as of February 27th. The current account stood at £580.54 and Carol handed over a number of membership renewal cheques at the meeting.

4/2/14 Research

1. Martin said that field walking had been impossible so far because of the wet weather but he would keep everybody informed as soon as things improved. **(Martin R)**
2. Martin explained that he had heard nothing from Paul Frodsham regarding the promised work at Brackenber this year but would try emailing him to try to pin him down – he had already emphasised that we would like to carry out any excavation earlier in the year.
3. A discussion took place over the possibility of carrying out an investigation around the find spot of the Crosby Garrett helmet. Richard had seen an article in British Archaeology which ended with an encouragement to local groups to carry out a community project there to follow up the findings of Minerva and Grampus. Richard explained the difficulties – landowners, difficult access, high profile endeavour etc. and wondered if the group would be able to take such a project on. He had already discussed

the matter with Mark Graham at Grampus, who was enthusiastic about a joint venture. Mark believed that funding would probably not be too difficult - HLF had a funding stream (up to £10,000) with very simple application requirements. Also, a brief chat with Harry Hawkins had indicated that the CWAAS Research Committee might be supportive. It was agreed that Richard should follow up further with Mark Graham on details of what might be at the site and report back to the committee. **(Richard)**

5/2/14 Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received:-

1. An email had been passed to the group by Jenni Lister at the CLHF from a member of the public, wishing to know more about a coin in his possession. The enquiry had been passed on to Martin R who had initially thought it might be a 14c trade token but who later thought it might have been a Scottish coin.
2. Richard had received a hard copy of an email from Cedric Bell to Ron Lyons regarding his talk to the group on iron smelting at the AGM, which had been reported in the C&W Herald. The contents were noted.
3. Phyl had received a letter from a concerned member of the Appleby in Westmorland Society concerning the 'discharge of condition 17' of a local planning approval by Storey Homes. The correspondent had misunderstood the phrase and Phyl had replied to him explaining the context.

6/2/14 Programme

Summer 2014

1. Harry has confirmed that the date & time for the visit to Shap Abbey will be Sunday 22nd June at 1pm.
2. The tour of Appleby Castle will take place on Tuesday May 13th at 6.30pm. The price is £15 per person and this will be announced at the March meeting as well as being published in the spring newsletter.
3. The walk on Askam Fell will be led by Martin R on Wednesday 11th June at 7pm. Martin will supply a grid reference for meeting up for the newsletter.
4. The full day outing to Hartlepool Maritime Museum and Headland will probably take place on 20th September, although Martin R is still researching activities at the museum and this might change.

Autumn Winter 2014 2015

Suggested/confirmed are:

October:	Eric Matthews - Update on Hornby Castle excavations. (Confirmed)
November:	Chris Healey from Minerva Heritage, on the professional excavation at the findspot of the Crosby Garrett Helmet. Trish Shaw would also take part, describing the geophysical survey carried out by Grampus. (Confirmed)
December:	Richard Newman from W-A Archaeology on Coastal archaeology and ports. (TBC) (Martin R)
January:	AGM and Member's evening (TBA)
February:	David Ramshaw on the Carlisle Canal (TBC) (Richard)
March:	TBA
April:	Dr David Mason on the Roman Navy with particular reference to Britain. (Confirmed)

Other possibles for March were still the Cumwhitton Burials **(Martin J)** and Samantha Walsh on Bronze Age burials **(Martin R)**.

(Post meeting note: Both Richard Newman and David Ramshaw have confirmed)

7/2/14 AOB

1. Following Stephen's resignation from the committee, Phyl expressed the warm thanks of the committee for his contribution in the past and wished him well for his partial move to Edinburgh. Stephen said that he would continue to be a member of the group and would attend meetings whenever he could.
2. Richard has taken over the production of posters for the talks season using Tony's excellent template and will distribute to committee members by email for local distribution around Eden. Carol agreed to take over the distribution for Kirkby Stephen.
3. The website 'What's on in Cumbria' was discussed and Richard agreed to investigate the possibility of putting the talks programme on the site. **(Post meeting note: The most appropriate site (ie. Free & highest Google rank) Richard could find appeared to be one called 'Where can we go/Cumbria' and details of the April talk have been uploaded to see the reaction, if any.)**
4. A general discussion took place concerning the Market Hall and its possible replacement for the group's talks season. It was thought that the yoga group were unlikely to budge on the supper room and it was unanimously felt that the public hall was not suitable in the long term. Phyl, Carol, Heather and Martin had looked at Centre 67 and had been impressed. The cost would be the same as for the current venue (cheaper than the supper room) and there were various other advantages, including nearby parking, café section integrated with the meeting room etc. Martin had minor concerns about the range of AV equipment at the venue – there was a lot of it and therefore more to go wrong. He suggested that, at the least, the group's projection screen should be kept locally so that if the electrically operated device at the Centre failed, there would be a replacement nearby. The decision was taken to book Centre 67 for the winter season 2014-15 and advise the Market Hall managers accordingly. **(Phyl/Richard)**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

Date and Time of next meeting Thursday May 22nd at North Stainmore